

Atty's 23078

Pat. App. Not known - US phase of PCT/EP03/03966

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) A fuel in the form of compacts with a content of plant material, characterized in that the fuel is comprised substantially of:

- a) a straw or straw components and
- b) comminuted hardwood and/or coconut shells

whereby both the straw or the straw components as well as the hardwood or coconut shells are digested with microorganisms.

2. (Currently Amended) The fuel according to claim 1 or claim 2 ~~characterized in that it~~ which is binder free.

3. (Currently Amended) The fuel according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2 characterized in that~~ wherein the straw is selected from the group of hemp straw, linen straw and rye straw, rice straw, barley straw or components of this type of straw (straw shavings) from which fiber components have been removed.

4. (Currently Amended) The fuel according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3 characterized in that~~ claim 1 wherein the straw or straw component has a particle size of 0.5 to 2.0 cm and the hardwood or coconut shell particles a particle size of about 0.5 to 0.7 cm.

5. (Currently Amended) A fuel according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ characterized in that claim 1 wherein the microorganisms used for the digestion (fermentation) comprises a mixture of lactic acid bacteria, yeasts, photosynthesis bacteria, actinomactinomycetes and fungi.

6. (Currently Amended) The fuel according to ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ characterized in that claim 1 wherein the compacts ~~(1) and the hole (4), are preferably~~ have holes and are of ring shape.

7. (Currently Amended) The fuel according to claim 6 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an ignition promoter ~~[[(2)]]~~ is arranged in the hole ~~[[(4)]]~~ and optionally also has a hole ~~[[(5)]]~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The fuel according to ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~ wherein the organism claim 6 wherein an ignition promoter ~~[[(2)]]~~ is arranged on one of the flat sides of the compact ~~[[(1)]]~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The fuel according to ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ characterized in that claim 1 wherein the compact is externally coated with a water repellant coating which can burn without residue preferably in the form of stearin.

10. (Currently Amended) The fuel according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ characterized in that the claim 1 wherein the compacts are provided with an ignition promoter ~~[[is]]~~ comprised of a combustible mixture of plant chips or dust and a binder like stearin which burns without a residue.

11. (Currently Amended) The fuel according to ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~ characterized in that the claim 1 wherein each compact has a proportion of inorganic material in the form of preferably limestone granules ~~[[,]]~~ admixed thereto.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of producing fuel compacts ~~in accordance with one of the claims 1 to 11~~ characterized in that the wherein straw or straw component components and ~~[[the]]~~ comminuted hardwood and /or coconut shell ~~component~~ components are moistened with a microorganism suspension and allowed to ferment for about 2 to 4 weeks, whereby the fermentation of the straw component is effected aerobically or anaerobically and the fermentation of the hardwood particles or coconut shell particles

is carried out anaerobically, and ~~[[that]]~~ the fermented component components, comminuted if necessary, optionally with addition of a proportion of inorganic substance like limestone granules, ~~[[is]]~~ are mixed and dried and then pressed at a pressure of preferably 700 to 900 kg/cm² to compacts.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the compacts are provided with a water repellant coating like stearin which burns without a residue by immersion or spraying.